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BNSF



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VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

October 29, 2002

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 390X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment between Loving and Pecos Junction, New Mexico and between Pecos Junction, New Mexico and Rustler Springs, Texas

Dear Secretary Williams:

On December 10, 2001, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of 46.54 miles of railroad line between railroad milepost 196.00 near Loving, NM and railroad milepost 217.20 near Pecos Junction, NM, and between railroad milepost 0.00 near Pecos Junction, NM, and railroad milepost 25.34 near Rustler Springs, TX.

In an order dated January 28, 2002, the Board imposed several conditions, including a Section 106 historical condition, prohibiting disposition of the right-of-way. Subsequently, the Board removed the section 106 condition by decision dated August 14, 2002.

The abandonment of this railroad line must be consummated on December 28, 2002 pursuant to the Board's order of December 28, 2001. However, due to imposition of the historical condition and delays in clearing the condition barring disposition, BNSF is requesting an extension of the consummation date. BNSF recently awarded a bid to remove the track material on this line. Due to the line's heavy welded rail and scheduling issues, salvage operations cannot be completed until approximately April 1, 2003 (after the Board's initial deadline for consummation). Therefore, BNSF requests an extension until May 1, 2003 to consummate the abandonment of this line.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (817) 352-2354 or Sarah.Bailiff@BNSF.com.

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitley Bailiff
Sarah Whitley Bailiff

SWB/js

cc: Richard Batie
Larry Parker
Mack Wiens
Dean Dalquist
Greg White

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

OCT 30 2002

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